

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5641

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18943

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, UR (SAKHAROV, ANDREY)(SEMENOVA, TANYA IVANOVNA)

(YAKELEVICH, YEFREM VLADIMIROVICH)

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH SAKHAROV: THREAT TO FAMILY

REF: STATE 263381

1. SUMMARY. SAKHAROV, STEP-DAUGHTER SEMENOVA, AND HER HUSBAND YANKELEVICH VISITED CONSULAR SECTION MORNING DECEMBER 23 TO DISCUSS COUPLE'S EXIT VISA CASE, AND REPORT RECEIPT OF THREAT FROM ALLEGED RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. SAKHAROV TELEPHONED CONSOFF AT HOME EVENING DECEMBER 20. IN CONVERSATION WHICH WAS PRESUMABLY MONITORED, CONSOFF SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE SAKHAROV AND COUPLE AT OFFICE TO DISCUSS VISA CASE, BUT SUGGESTED IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR SAKHAROV TO ACCOMPANY COUPLE IN PERSON. SAKHAROV, HOWEVER, CAME WITH COUPLE MORNING DECEMBER 23. CONSOFF MET THEM OUTSIDE AT THEIR REQUEST, AND ESCORTED THEM IN WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. STEP-DAUGHTER SEMENOVA SAID MOSCOW OVIR HAD PHONED DECEMBER 19 AND INVITED THEM TO CALL AT THAT OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO THEIR LAST COMPLAINT TO ALL-UNION OVIR. OVIR OFFICER HAD SAID DURING TELEPHONE CALL THAT EXIT VISA CASE WAS "AS BEFORE." FAMILY CONCLUDED THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE THAT EXIT VISAS NOT APPROVED.

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4. SAKHAROV AND SEMENOVA SHOWED CONSOFFS TEXT OF

THREATENING NOTE FOUND IN SAKHAROV'S MAIL BOX DECEMBER 20, PURPORTEDLY FROM A SO-CALLED RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN PARTY. THREATENING NOTE WAS IN ENVELOPE WITH COPY OF FULL TASS STATEMENT ABOUT GROMYKO-KISSINGER LETTER DISCLAIMING EMIGRATION COMPROMISE. FULL TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS.

5. "ANREY DMITRIYEVICH* YOU EVIDENTLY UNDERSTAND THAT THIS STATEMENT (I.E., PRESUMABLY THE ENCLOSED TASS CLIPPING) IS MOSTLY PROVOKED BY YOUR ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE PEOPLE (ANTINIRODNAYA DEYATELNOST). EVEN NOW, AFTER THESE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS IF YOU DO NOT REVISE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO COMPEL YOU TO DO SO. WE WILL BEGIN, AS YOU WOULD EVIDENTLY ASSUME, THROUGH PERSONS WELL KNOWN BY YOU - THE YANKELEVICHES (SENIOR AND JUNIOR) IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR NEXT PRANK. MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN PARTY (RKHP)."

6. SAKHAROV AND COUPLE SAID THEY NEVER HEARD OF RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN PARTY, AND HE THOUGH NOTE WAS KGB ATTEMPT TO CREATE FEAR AND DIVISIVENESS. SAKHAROV ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD RECEIVED ASSORTED THREATS IN THE PAST, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED BY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO YANKELEVICH AND CHILD. ASKED IF HE PLANNED TO REPORT THREAT TO MILITIA, SAKHAROV SAID HE WOULD DO SO THAT AFTERNOON.

7. SAKHAROV MADE NO SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR EMBASSY ACTION ABOUT EITHER VISA CASES OR THREAT, BUT ASKED CONSOFF TO FORWARD LETTERS ABOUT THREAT TO DR. HANDLER, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND TO EDITOR OF NEW YORK TIMES. CONSOFF ACCEPTED LETTER FOR HANDLER, BUT SAID HE DID NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE PROPER TO TRANSMIT LETTER TO NEW YORK TIMES. SAKHAROV DID NOT INSIST THAT LETTER TO NEW YORK TIMES BE ACCEPTED, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE CAN PASS IT THROUGH TIMES OFFICE HERE.

8. TRIO THEN DEPARTED, AND SAKHAROV SUBSEQUENTLY PHONED TO REPORT THEY HAD GONE TO MOSCOW OVIR AND BEEN TOLD THAT, AS BEFORE, QUESTION OF YANKELEVICH'S TEMPORARY WORK AT MIT WAS NOT IN OVIR'S COMPETENCE.

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9. EMBASSY POUCHING HANDLER LETTER TO SOV.

10. WREN OF NEW YORK TIMES WILL PRESUMABLY FILE STORY IF SAKHAROV GETS LETTER TO HIM.
STOESSEL

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